



DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EHS – V-01

WASHOE COUNTY SEES FIRST HUMAN CASE OF WEST NILE VIRUS

The Washoe County District Health Department has received notification of the first human case of West Nile Virus (WNV) infection in a Washoe County resident, according to Bob Sack, Environmental Health Services (EHS) Division Director. The resident who is over the age of 50 has the milder form, West Nile Fever, and has not been hospitalized. “The District Health Department is reminding the residents of Washoe County to continue to take personal precautions, especially with temperatures remaining high, which provides enhanced mosquito breeding,” Sack stated.

Area residents should take the following precautions now and through the fall months to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes in and around their homes and to avoid being bitten:

- Clear the yard of any free-standing water that may become a mosquito breeding-ground, like tires and wading pools
 - Wear long sleeves and long pants in mosquito prone areas
 - Use mosquito repellant containing DEET and follow label precautions
 - Avoid outdoor activities at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active
 - Repair window screens that provide entry for mosquitoes
- Report nighttime mosquito activity to the District Health Department at 328-2434

Common symptoms of mild infections are fever, headache, body ache, skin rash and swollen lymph glands. Those with a more severe infection may experience high fever, headache, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, paralysis and death. Individuals with symptoms of severe infection should seek medical attention immediately.

Horse owners should ensure their animals are vaccinated for West Nile Virus (WNV) and Western Equine Encephalitis (WEE). WEE is another mosquito-borne disease that is sometimes seen in this area. Neither WNV nor WEE can be transmitted from horses to

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WNV HUMAN CASE

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humans. There is no vaccine for WNV or WEE that will protect humans, therefore, the preventive measures outlined above are very important.

District Health Department Vector Borne Disease Program staff have been working since April to abate mosquitoes in Washoe County. Presently, only two locations have produced WNV positive mosquito pools. These locations are in the Washoe Valley area and the Lazy 5 Regional Park.

For more information about West Nile Virus, please visit our web site at www.co.washoe.nv.us/health/ehs/vector/wnvFact.html or www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm or call 775-328-2434.

If you have problems with mosquitoes in your neighborhood, please report it to the District Health Department by calling 775-328-2434 or 775-785-4599.

SPECIAL NOTE TO THE MEDIA:

Telephone numbers for West Nile Virus:

Washoe County District Health Department: 775-328-2434

Nevada Department of Agriculture: 775-688-1182, Ext. 231

Nevada State Health Division - Statewide: Toll-Free Disease Information Line: 1-888-608-4623

Southern Nevada Health District - Clark County – West Nile Hotline: 702-759-1220

Carson City: 775-887-2190